REMARKS

Claims 21-31 are still pending.

Claims 21-26 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,282).

The Traversal

The obviousness rejection is respectfully traversed because Smith does not teach suggest a system for controlling outdoor maintenance equipment featuring each messaging control being usable for communication with at least two or more other messaging controls in the system so that each client or user interface can provide messages for controlling each of the plurality of outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, and also can receive responses containing information about each of the plurality of outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, as now recited in amended independent claims 21 and 29.

The Invention

The claimed invention provides a system shown in Figure 1 for controlling outdoor environmental maintenance equipment like a weather station 46, a pump station 68 or an irrigation system 74 having different user interfaces based on an open client-server architecture for golf courses, ski resorts, other outdoor recreational areas or for any application involving and managing of an outdoor environment.

The system comprises client or user interfaces 12, 16, 32, 52, 60; client or user interface messaging controls 14, 20, 34, 40, 56, 62; interface control servers 24, 44, 66, 72; and interface control server messaging controls 22, 42, 64, 70.

The client or user interfaces 12, 16, 32, 52, 60 provide messages for controlling the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment 46, 68, 74, and receive responses containing information about the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment 46, 68, 74.

The client or user interface messaging controls 14, 20, 34, 40, 56, 62 are each associated with a respective one of the client or user interfaces 12, 16, 32, 52, 60.

The interface control servers 24, 44, 66, 72 are each for controlling a respective one of the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment 46, 68, 74.

The interface control server messaging controls 22, 42, 64, 70 are each associated with a respective one of the interface control servers 24, 44, 66, 72.

In operation, the interface control server messaging controls 22, 42, 64, 70 and the client or user interface messaging controls 14, 20, 34, 40, 56, 62 exchange messages and communicating with each other using a common messaging control protocol for controlling the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment 46, 68, 74.

As stated above, the invention features each messaging

control 14, 20, 34, 40, 56, 62; 22, 42, 64, 70 being usable for communication with at least two or more other messaging controls 14, 20, 34, 40, 56, 62; 22, 42, 64, 70 in the system so that each client or user interface can provide messages for controlling each of the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, and also can receive responses containing information about each of outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, as shown in Figure 1.

The messaging controls include both the client or user interface messaging control like element 14, 20, 34, 40, 56, 62 in Figure 1 of the present invention that are associated with the client or user interfaces 12, 16, 32, 36, 52, 60, as well as the interface control server messaging controls like elements 22, 42, 64, 70 associated with a respective one of the interface control servers like elements 24, 44, 66, 72.

Smith

In contrast to the claimed invention, Smith discloses two basic systems for building automation. The first is a centralized system that is shown in Figures 1-95. The second is a decentralized system that is shown in Figures 96-99. It is respectfully submitted that the reasoning in paragraph 3 of the Office Action is taking parts of the first system and combining them with parts of the second system in order to end up with the claimed invention.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Smith's centralized system 11 shown in Figures 1-95 is very different from the claimed invention. For example, in Figures 2(a) to (d), Smith's centralized system 11 includes numerous subsystems 41, 42, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53 all coupled to a centralized intelligent home controller 13 via different protocols, i.e. serial, parallel, infrared, voice, relay, digital analog, DTMF. It is respectfully submitted that Smith does not suggest that its centralized system 11 has multiple client or user interfaces that each provide messages for controlling each of the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, and also receive responses containing information about each of the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, as now claimed. Only Smith's centralized intelligent home controller 13 can control all of the numerous subsystems 41, 42, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53.

Moreover, Smith's decentralized system shown in part in Figures 96-99 is also very different from the claimed invention. For example, Figure 96 shows an alternative embodiment of the building automation system having a centralized controller 2001 coupled via a CEBUS protocol communications channel to serial adapters 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 to equipment such as HVAC 2009, security 2011, HVAC camera 2013 or weather 2014, and coupled via an Ionworks protocol communications channel 2005 to a serial adapter 2023 to a sprinkler 2007. Figure 97 shows the serial adapter 2015 in greater detail having a CEBUS program 2051,

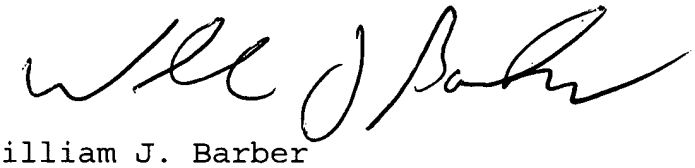
serial driver 2071 and building system program 2079 for coupling the communications bus 2003 (see also Figure 96) to end devices 2081 via an end device protocol (i.e. the respective device protocol). However, it is respectfully submitted that Smith does not suggest that its decentralized system in Figures 96-99 has multiple client or user interfaces that each provide messages for controlling each of the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, and also receive responses containing information about each of the outdoor environmental maintenance equipment, as now claimed. For example, Smith's serial adapters 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 cannot provide messages for controlling each of the HVAC 2009, security 2011, HVAC camera 2013 or weather 2014, or receive responses containing information about each of the same.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Smith does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The remaining depend claims depend directly or indirectly from these independent claims and contain all the limitations thereof, and/or are rejected based on Smith in combination with another cited reference. However, it is respectfully submitted that the other cited reference do not make up for the deficiency in Smith.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



William J. Barber
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 32,720

/dap
December 8, 2004
WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Customer No. 004955
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 261-1234